



APPENDIX NO. 114.

Library

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T S

o f   t h e

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

K A T H L E E N   M .   H A R D I N G ,   M . D . ,   D . P . H . ,   A . K . C .

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P U B L I C   H E A L T H   I N S P E C T O R

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STONMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman : W. H. Naylor, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : F. W. Serjeant.

A. A. Ashton, J.P.	E. J. Jones.
E. Fulcher.	Dr. R. U. F. Kynaston.
R. W. Hiron.	J. O. Milner.
W. A. Howard.	B. G. Quinton.
A. W. Iliffe	G. S. Scotland.
G. L. Ince.	R. N. Speirs.
H. G. J. Stammers.	

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : G. L. Ince.

Vice-Chairman : A. A. Ashton, J.P.

R. W. Hiron.	G. S. Scotland.
E. J. Jones	R. N. Speirs.
J. O. Milner.	H. G. J. Stammers.

Ex Officio: The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman  
of the Council.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr. Kathleen M. Harding,  
M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

L. W. Brown, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Miss G. Thompson.

\* \* \* \* \*



STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,  
Ipswich Road,  
STOWMARKET.

June, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1964.

The state of health of the people of Stowmarket has been satisfactory during the year under consideration.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,696 acres.
Population (estimated mid-year							
Home Population, Registrar							
General's Figures)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,990
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,669
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£380,094
Estimated Sum represented by							
a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,520

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Infant Mortality Rate is somewhat lower than the national figure.

(i) BIRTHS (Registrar General's Figures).LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	52.	67.	119.
Legitimate	51.	67.	118.
Illegitimate	1.	-.	1.

BIRTH RATE.

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	=	14.89
Per 1,000 home population - England and Wales	=	18.4
Comparability Factor	=	1.07
Standardised Birth Rate	=	15.94

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	-.	2.	2.
Legitimate	-.	2.	2.
Illegitimate	-.	-.	-.



STILL BIRTH RATE:-

Per 1,000 total live and still births	=	16.53
- do - England and Wales	=	16.3

INFANT MORTALITY (Under One Year).

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total ... ..	-.	1.	1.
Legitimate ... ..	-.	1.	1.
Illegitimate ... ..	-.	-.	-.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total ... ..	-.	1.	1.
Legitimate ... ..	-.	1.	1.
Illegitimate ... ..	-.	-.	-.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK OF AGE.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total ... ..	-.	1.	1.
Legitimate ... ..	-.	1.	1.
Illegitimate ... ..	-.	-.	-.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:-

Per 1,000 live births	=	8.4
- do - England and Wales	=	20.0

(ii) DEATHS (Registrar General's Figures).

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
ALL CAUSES ... ..	48.	46.	94.

DEATH RATE:-

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 home population	=	11.77
Per 1,000 home population - England and Wales	=	11.3
Comparability Factor	=	1.03
Standardised Death Rate	=	13.29

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CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1964</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1963</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	1	1	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	-	-	-	2
"        "        lung, bronchus	5	3	8	-
"        "        breast	-	2	2	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	6	12	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	5	11	10
Coronary disease, angina	17	5	22	17
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2	2
Other heart disease	2	8	10	15
Other circulatory disease	-	2	2	8
Influenza	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	5	2	7	7
Bronchitis	-	1	1	3
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	6	7	7
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2	2
All other accidents	2	1	3	3
Suicide	1	-	1	-
Totals:	48	46	94	92

It will be seen that there has been a spectacular increase in the number of deaths from Cancer of the Lung. There were two deaths in 1962 and whilst there were none in 1963, eight occurred in 1964. The association of this disease with excessive cigarette smoking has been proved without doubt. In 1964, cancer killed more people in the United Kingdom than ever before, and claimed 104, 698 men and women in England and Wales alone. The rise in male cancer deaths to a total of 56, 247 was almost wholly accounted for by the increase in Lung Cancer. The deaths of women from Lung Cancer were also proportionately higher. For every person that dies in a road accident, three die from Lung Cancer. A sobering comparison. Both the National figures and the local domestic statistics must give us cause for concern, particularly when we notice the apathy to this problem which the general population appears to adopt, if regard is paid to the Commonwealth Economic Committee which reports that for the year 1964 Britain's smoking bill reached a record figure of £1,300 million. Some local publicity is given to the dangerous association between cigarette smoking and respiratory disease by the distribution of propaganda posters to local industrialists, youth organisations, schools and some of the larger shops employing young people, but it would appear that more energetic measures will have to be adopted if any significant inroads are to be made into this pitiful drug addiction which is little removed from the purple hearts problem except that the smoking of cigarettes takes a deal longer and acts rather more insidiously.



COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

	1961	1962	1963	1964	England and Wales 1964
Inhabited houses	2538	2570	2600	2669	-
Population (Registrar General's figures)	7770	7870	7940	7990	-
Live births	112	117	126	119	-
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.55	15.01	16.98	15.94	18.4
Deaths of Infants under One Year	2	2	2	1	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	17.86	17.1	15.4	8.4	20
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.24	10.4	11.95	13.29	11.3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled  
from Notifications received.

Diseases	Ages							Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	1/2	3/4	5/9	10/14	15/24	25 +	Age Unknown			
Measles	12	8	27	4	-	-	-	51	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	2	1	-	3	7	13	-	-
<u>TOTALS:-</u>								64	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

- |   |                     |                       |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
|   | <u>Pulmonary.</u>   | <u>Non-Pulmonary.</u> |
|   | <u>M.</u> <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> <u>F.</u>   |
| (i) New Cases notified -  | -   -               | 1   -                 |
| (ii) Age of New Case - 71 years.  |                     |                       |
| (iii) One male case who had suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis was removed from the Register during the year on his recovery. |                     |                       |
| (iv) One case was removed from the Register on his departure to another district.   |                     |                       |
| (v) Cases on the Register at the end of the year:-  |                     |                       |

<u>Pulmonary.</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
12.	3.	15.	7.	6.	13.





VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. (Figures supplied by the  
County Medical Officer of Health.)

			<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>
(i)	<u>SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS.</u>				
	Primary vaccinations	...	82	34	185
	Re-vaccinations	...	23	14	150
(ii)	<u>IMMUNISATIONS.</u>				

(a)	<u>Primary.</u>				<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
	Tetanus	...	...	...	19	22
	Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
	Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus	...	...	...	146	127
	Diphtheria/Tetanus	...	...	...	-	2
					<u>165</u>	<u>151</u>

(b)	<u>Boosters.</u>				<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>
	Diphtheria and Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough/Tetanus	...	...	...	123	126

(iii) POLIOMYELITIS.

No separate figures for this District are available for Poliomyelitis vaccinations.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In the autumn an outbreak of food poisoning occurred in a private school in the Town. Symptoms were first noticed amongst some of the pupils on the evening of 15th September, and by the following day a total of 67 children had become affected. The Public Health Department was called in shortly after the outbreak began and arrangements were made to test the pupils and staff of the school. As a result it was shown that the victims were excreting a food poisoning germ, salmonella typhi-murium phage type 2a, which was identical with that found in a piece of pork pie which had been served for lunch at the school.

As the pie had been produced in a local factory numerous visits were made to the premises and the food processes scrutinised. All the factory employees were also examined.

During these investigations, a food poisoning germ identical with the one excreted by the pupils and present in the pie was found in some of the factory staff and in the drains of the factory. It was also established at this time that pies from this factory had been involved in food poisoning outbreaks in Peterborough, Felixstowe and Shotley.

It became necessary to close the school in Stowmarket for a temporary period and it was not fully re-opened until 12th October.



Many of the victims continued to be carriers of the Food Poisoning germ although they were no longer ill, and the last case did not become clear until January, 1965.

The investigation and surveillance of the victims and their families was a combined operation as they lived over a wide area, and besides those of this Council, the Public Health Departments of Gipping, Hartismere, Thedwastre, Long Melford and Cosford were involved.

The outbreak entailed an enormous amount of work, particularly in the Public Health Department of this Council.

However, as a result of this the outbreak was prevented from spreading, and only one other case, unconnected with the school, occurred.

The Pie Firm was successfully prosecuted by this Council in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section ~~2 and 8~~, and a fine of £50 imposed.

#### SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No formal action was necessary under this Act to hospitalise anyone incapable of attending to their own needs.

#### FOOD.

Information under this heading is given in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

#### PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one open air swimming bath which is owned and maintained by the Council. It is supplied with mains water.

The water is treated with break-point chlorination and is filtered. It is changed at the rate of 20,000 gallons per hour. The pool is emptied completely and cleaned out once a year.

Analyses of the water during the year have been most satisfactory.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Action taken under the Factories Act, 1961, is detailed in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

#### HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

##### (a) Home Nursing.

Under the County Council's Scheme one midwife, one district nurse midwife and one part-time general duties nurse are employed on their arduous duties extended as they are over a constant schedule of erratic hours.

##### (b) Home Helps.

Mrs. Blackburn is the County Council's home help organiser, and arranges for home helps to be made available in approved cases. The service is principally available to the elderly and disabled to enable them to maintain their independence in their own homes as an alternative to possible hospitalisation. The problem family, the mother after confinement, and the family with the temporary loss of its housewife and mother are others





in the categories recognised for home help service in order to ease their burden during a temporary period of stress.

(c) Welfare Foods Service.

Welfare foods are available on Wednesdays at the Violet Hill Clinic, the voluntary staffing of this section being undertaken by Mrs. Phillippo and Mrs. Naylor, who generously give of their time for the benefit of the young and their mothers.

Welfare foods are also available Mondays to Fridays at the local Council Offices.

(d) Child-Minding Service.

A creche is provided by members of the W.V.S. in the Constitutional Hall, Milton Road, every Thursday for the benefit of young mothers visiting the Town for their market day shopping.

(e) Health Visiting.

One full-time health visitor, Mrs. V. Butler, includes Stowmarket in her territory under the County Council's Scheme. She is actively engaged in promoting the welfare of the family, and her especial interests are the less able, the pre-school age, the physically handicapped and the problem family.

(f) Clinic Services.

The County Council's Clinic is situated in Violet Hill, and affords a wide variety of services:-

Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Wednesday, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Mothercraft and relaxation classes are attended twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays.

An ante-natal clinic is held twice a month on the fourth Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

Each Monday sees a Specialist Health Visitor in attendance for the benefit of the mentally handicapped children.

Speech therapy sessions are held on Tuesdays.

The Chest Clinic with a Consultant Chest Physician in attendance is held twice a month on the second and fourth Thursdays.

Family planning advice is available on the first and third Thursday afternoons and on the second and fourth Friday evenings.

Ophthalmic clinic sessions take place on the first and third Thursday afternoons.

Physiotherapy treatment is available on Wednesday mornings.

The Dental clinic operates as necessary.

A Diabetics clinic is held once a month.

A chiropody service is available twice a month on Mondays.

(g) Veneral Diseases Clinic.

Anyone who has risked infection, and any extra-marital sexual relationship constitutes this risk, should use the discreet services of the Venereal Diseases Clinics which are equipped for reliable diagnosis and speedy and convenient treatment. Two such Clinics are available to the local population as follows:-

(a) Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital (Skin Dept.) Anglesea Road Wing, Ipswich.

Males: Mondays 5.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. Females: Mondays 7.30 p.m. -

8.30 p.m.

Fridays 1.00 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Tuesdays 2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Fridays 2.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.



(b) West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.

Males and Females - Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

Publicity is given to these clinic services by poster displays in local public conveniences.

(h) Laboratory Facilities.

The Council utilises the services of the Public Health Laboratory Service for the bacteriological examination work which forms an essential part of the Department's duties. The Laboratory Director is Dr. J. M. S. Dixon. Considerable use was made of the services of the Laboratory in 1964 particularly in connection with the outbreak of food poisoning in the autumn, when it dealt with many hundreds of specimens of faeces to enable the Council to determine the extent of the infection, and subsequently to control infected individuals until their complete recovery. The Public Analysts in the area are Messrs. Lincolne Sutton & Wood, who undertake the chemical analyses of a variety of materials including in 1964 specimens of local water supplies, plastic ware and foodstuffs.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Three samples of the Council's water supply sources were submitted to the Public Analyst in 1964, as follows:-

"Sample Q.998 received 3rd June, 1964 from Stowmarket U.D.C.  
 Marked No. 2 bore, Town waterworks, raw water.  
 Appearance when received: clear, yellow deposit.  
 Nature of Deposit: chalk and iron compounds.  
 Colour: pale yellow Odour: nil.  
 Reaction: neutral pH 6.9 Taste: faintly mouldy

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.05	Hardness as $\text{CaCO}_3$	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.09	Total	370
Nitrate nitrogen	nil	Carbonate (temporary)	305
Nitrite nitrogen	0.025	Non-carbonate (permanent)	65
Chlorine and chlorides	50	Alkalinity as $\text{CaCO}_3$	305
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr., 27°C.)	0.45	Free Carbon Dioxide	65
		Total solids (at 180°C)	555
		Iron (total)	1.2
		Metals in solution	nil
Calcium as Ca	126 p.p.m.	Magnesium as Mg	14 p.p.m.
Sodium as Na	50 p.p.m.	Carbonate as $\text{CO}_3$	184 p.p.m.
Chloride as Cl	50 p.p.m.	Sulphate as $\text{SO}_4$	80 p.p.m.
Nitrate as $\text{NO}_3$	nil p.p.m.	Iron as Fe	1.2 p.p.m.
Fluorine as $\text{F}^3$	0.25 p.p.m.	Silica as $\text{SiO}_2$	13 p.p.m.

OPINION OF THE PUBLIC ANALYSTS

The organic quality of this water is good and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. As compared with the last analysis (our certificate No. N.338) very little change has taken place. The total hardness is a little lower, mainly because of a slight decrease in the calcium content.





"This water has a somewhat high content of free carbonic acid and treatment with the object of raising the pH is advisable in order to reduce any risk of solvent action on metals. The water also contains iron in sufficient quantity to be a nuisance to consumers if not removed. These objects will be accomplished by the softening process that we understand is applied to the water before it goes into supply. In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Sample Q.999 received 3rd June, 1964 from Stowmarket U.D.C.  
Marked No. 1 bore, Town Waterworks, raw water.  
Appearance when received: clear, yellow deposit.  
Nature of deposit: chalk and iron compounds.  
Colour: pale yellow Odour: nil  
Reaction: neutral pH 7.2 Taste: satisfactory

#### RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.01	Hardness as $\text{CaCO}_3$ :	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.01	Total	330
Nitrate nitrogen	2.5	Carbonate (temporary)	290
Nitrite nitrogen	0.02	Non-carbonate (permanent)	40
Chlorine as chlorides	34	Alkalinity as $\text{CaCO}_3$	290
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr., 27°C.)	nil	Free carbon dioxide	36
		Total solids (at 180°C.)	450
		Iron (total)	1.4
		Metals in solution	nil

Calcium as Ca	110 p.p.m.	Magnesium as Mg	14 p.p.m.
Sodium as Na	40 p.p.m.	Carbonate as $\text{CO}_3$	174 p.p.m.
Chloride as Cl	34 p.p.m.	Sulphate as $\text{SO}_4$	45 p.p.m.
Nitrate as $\text{NO}_3$	1 p.p.m.	Iron as Fe	1.4 p.p.m.
Fluorine as $\text{F}^3$	0.20 p.p.m.	Silica as $\text{SiO}_2$	14 p.p.m.

#### OPINION OF THE PUBLIC ANALYSTS

This water is of very good organic quality and free from any chemical evidence of pollution. As compared with the water from No. 2 bore (our certificate No. Q.998) the chloride and sulphate contents are both lower, as is the total hardness, so that the total content of dissolved solids is about 100 parts per million lower. Apart from this, the general characteristics of the water are much the same and the remarks made about the water from No. 2 bore apply to this one also."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Sample Q.1000 received 3rd June, 1964 from Stowmarket U.D.C.  
Marked Poplar Hill Waterworks, Combs. Raw water.  
Appearance when received: slightly opalescent - trace of yellow deposit.  
Nature of deposit: iron compounds, trace silicious matter.  
Colour: faint yellow Odour: nil  
Reaction: neutral pH 6.9 Taste: satisfactory

#### RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.15	Hardness as $\text{CaCO}_3$ :	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.01	Total	450
Nitrate nitrogen	2.5	Carbonate (temporary)	330
Nitrite nitrogen	nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	120
Chlorine as chlorides	46	Alkalinity as $\text{CaCO}_3$	330
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr., 27°C.)	nil	Free carbon dioxide	48
		Total solids (at 180°C.)	565
		Iron (Total)	3.2
		Metals in solution	nil



## RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

Calcium as Ca	146 p.p.m.	Magnesium as Mg	20 p.p.m.
Sodium as Na	24 p.p.m.	Carbonate as CO <sub>3</sub>	198 p.p.m.
Chloride as Cl	46 p.p.m.	Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub>	80 p.p.m.
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub>	11 p.p.m.	Iron as Fe	3.2 p.p.m.
Fluorine as F	0.2 p.p.m.	Silica as SiO <sub>2</sub>	11 p.p.m.

## OPINION OF THE PUBLIC ANALYSTS

The organic quality of this water is good and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. This water is much harder than those from the Stowmarket town waterworks, being about 32° Clark of which about 23° is temporary. The free carbonic acid content is rather high and there is a heavy trace of iron giving rise to a rusty deposit on standing. Treatment is required to remove the iron, raise the pH and preferably to soften the water at least in part. Given such treatment this water should then be very suitable for drinking and general purposes."

\* \* \* \* \*

Two domestic households in the Town continue to obtain their water from a well. Routine bacteriological examination of the water from this well has consistently shown it to be free from bacterial pollution. However, a baby was due to be delivered to one of the families in one of these houses in 1964, and as a precautionary measure a sample of the water supply was submitted for chemical analysis to determine the nitrate content to safeguard against the possibility of methaemoglobinaemia occurring. The water was found to contain 19.5 p.p.m. nitrate N, which indicated a safe water supply for the baby.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,

KATHLEEN M. HARDING

Medical Officer of Health.





STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,  
Ipswich Road,  
STOWMARKET,  
Suffolk.

June, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector.

It is my privilege to present my third Annual Report concerning the environmental health work undertaken during 1964.

HOUSING.

Inadequate or insanitary housing continues to be one of the major problems facing the Council. Some tangible evidence of the Council's activities in this direction was provided in the form of a modest extension of the St. Edmunds Road bungalow estate and the commencement of a small scheme of improvement of some of the obsolete dwellings in Poplar Hill. The fact that there were no spectacular inroads into the housing problem was however coincidental for there was a great deal of work invested in preparing projects which it may be anticipated will come to fruition in 1966.

At the beginning of the year the Council's housing waiting lists, excluding slum clearance schedules, were as follows:-

A1	- One or two persons in family	19
A2	- Couples with one child	30
A3	- Couples with more than one child	20
B1	- As A1 but residing outside District	22
B2	- As A2 but residing outside District	34
B3	- As A3 but residing outside District	25
All categories living in Council houses in other Districts		46
Aged applicants living in Stowmarket		42
Aged applicants living outside Stowmarket		24
All categories awaiting acceptance on lists		27
All categories of doubtful need		58
Applicants wishing transfer to 1-bedroom bungalows		14
Applicants wishing transfer to 2-bedroom bungalows		59

The Council exercises a points scheme for general rehousing purposes, and during the year this was revised to provide for the allocation of points awards after one year with annual increments of 4%, 6%, 8% and 10%. The



Scheme allows for allocations to 'Special cases' regardless of the points scale, which is as it should be for the first priority of a housing welfare scheme is to meet need before patience.

New House Building: The estates developed by B. G. Quinton Ltd. in Campion Crescent and by Seaman & Sons in St. Peters Road neared completion. The overall contribution by private house development in Stowmarket in 1964 amounted to 51 dwellings including 6 maisonettes in the commercial redevelopment in the Town area. In addition, over 50 houses and bungalows were added to Stowupland Heights which, to some extent, has become a Stowmarket dormitory.

The Planning Authority objected to the private development of part of Hill Farm, Stowupland Road, Stowmarket, for house building even though the coalescing of Stowmarket and Stowupland Heights is eventually inevitable. The proposed private housing estate at Edgars Farm in Combs Lane was deferred from time to time through another year because the original designs and layout were incompatible with the Council's reasonable minimum standards. With the liaising influence of the County Planning Officer, agreement was finally reached. The provision of these proposed 170 houses will be further delayed for a year until an adequate water supply can be made available, but preparation of the estate has commenced.

Apart from this, the only other estate development which is prepared, is the Danescourt extension on the Abbots Hall estate where there is currently not a deal of building activity.

Outline planning consent was given in 1964 in respect of the development for housing purposes of a large parcel of land between Finborough Road and Onehouse road and latterly there is interest in 8 acres off Needham Road for housing purposes. In all the circumstances it would appear likely that the period 1966 - 68 might be particularly significant as far as housing in Stowmarket is concerned. The local situation can stand such an improvement. A modest three-bedroomed house now fetches upwards of £3000 which the majority of the working class finds beyond its financial resources, and it is compelled to turn to the less ambitious and frequently obsolete small terrace dwellings of which there are a fair number in the District and which in most cases justify grant-aided improvement. The demand for these houses is depleting the stocks of rented houses for the working classes and raising the price of these four-roomed cottages to over £1000.

In addition to private development, the Council built 18 bungalows tailored to the needs of the elderly. Six more were in course of construction at 31st December, and it is proposed to erect a further 16 in St. Edmunds Road in 1965 - 66. The standard of design and comfort, including thermal properties, are praised by all and these dwellings have become a coveted allocation. If this type of dwelling could be provided in more central areas of the Town, the elderly would indeed be blessed.

The Chilton Hall Estate now justifies a shopping precinct of its own. A second general shop was on the way towards the end of the year to supplement the general shop which has served the estate for a number of years, and it is gratifying to learn that post office facilities are shortly to be introduced there. A chemist, a fish-frier, and others could appropriately follow.

Slum Clearance is based upon a schedule of possibly unfit dwellings drawn up by direction of the Minister in 1954. The Council's programme had been based upon this and a supplementary list compiled at a subsequent date. At a general review of the programme early in 1964, the Council decided to merge the lists into one official schedule of dwellings as follows:-





PROBABLE REQUIREMENTS AT  
31ST DECEMBER, 1964.

<u>ADDRESS.</u>	<u>Upstairs flat or house</u> <u>units.</u>			<u>Ground floor</u> <u>units.</u>	
	<u>Bedrooms.</u>			<u>Bedrooms.</u>	
	2	3	4	1	2
3/5/7, Union Street.	-	-	-	-	-
105 - 111, Bury Street.	1	-	-	-	-
Vine Cottage, Station Road.	-	-	-	-	1
1 - 4, Combs Ford Square.	-	2	-	2	-
1 - 23, Spring Row.	-	-	-	3	-
4 - 12, Stricklands Road.	-	1	-	1	1
3 - 5, Poplar Hill.	-	1	-	1	-
9 - 35, Union Street.	-	4	-	5	4
8 - 25, Church Walk.	7	1	2	7	1
1 - 21, Ham Row.	-	1	-	3	4
4 - 10, Union Street.	2	-	-	1	-
22 - 32, Union Street.	3	-	-	2	1
14 - 54, Violet Hill.	6	4	-	6	5
65 - 75, Bury Street.	-	2	-	2	1
128 - 148, Bury Street.	3	-	-	8	-
2 - 12, Walnut Tree Walk.	2	-	-	3	-
9 - 15, Takers Lane.	1	-	-	3	-
51 - 57, Stowupland Street.	1	2	1	-	-
9 - 11, Combs Ford.	-	1	-	1	-
18 - 20, Crowe Street.	-	-	-	2	-
Cedars Cottage.	-	-	1	-	-
62, Stowupland Street.	-	-	-	-	1
5 - 35, Stowupland Street.	5	2	-	4	-
26 - 32, Stowupland Street.	5	2	1	3	1
47 - 51, Union Street.	-	1	-	1	1
84/86, Union Street.	-	-	1	-	-
	36	24	6	58	21

TOTAL = 145 Units.

Basically the standard of fitness provided by Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957, is used for determining whether a house is of demolition category but legislation must be amended before long to recognise the house improvement grant standards, for a house's future life must also be influenced by whether or not it would warrant improvement to the seven-point standard.





The Slum Clearance Programme was launched in 1955. To the end of the year under review 33 houses had been dealt with.

In 1965 it had been resolved to allocate the equivalent of a third of new dwellings for slum clearance purposes, and it became obvious that at the current rate of new building the clearance programme would not proceed at a satisfactory pace. In the circumstances the Council considered this aspect of the slum clearance problem in its 1964 review, and decided to introduce separate proposals for new building specifically for slum clearance purposes, quite apart from building for general needs.

It was decided that phase 1 of such a project should incorporate 20 new dwellings, most of which would arise in the Ham Row redevelopment which is likely to comprise from 12 to 16 bungalow units. In the interim the Slum Clearance Programme will continue to rely upon its one-in-three allocation of new dwellings provided in the general pool. This allocation reduced the slum clearance waiting lists by 3 in 1964. A vast majority of people living in the houses scheduled for slum clearance are elderly and in many instances these people are content to remain in their present conditions, particularly where they have found their present houses within their means to purchase or where the controlled rents are well within their own independent financial resources. It is dismaying however to reflect that at the present rate of progress of slum clearance in this Town there are some for whom decent living conditions may arrive too late, and there are children who are destined to pass their childhood in unfit obsolete houses with little or no healthy playing environment fit for their use.

Some incidents in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme during the year are briefly detailed as follows.

1. Nos. 1 - 3, Stricklands Road were demolished in pursuance of demolition orders under the Housing Act, 1957, following the rehousing of Mrs. Martin in 1963 to one of the Council's new bungalows at St. Edmunds Road. The site of these houses was left in a partially cleared rubble-strewn state for a prolonged period throughout the year, and recommends the Council to the use of the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1961, to regulate the demolition of buildings and the clearance of their sites where any future demolition orders are served.
2. As if the proposed Stowmarket Relief Road was not nuisance enough to the public health work in the Town, another road proposal, that for Stricklands Road, thwarted the initial representations for the clearance area at Nos. 4 - 12, Stricklands Road. Upon the clearance of these unfit houses depends not only desirable road-widening improvements, but also the improvement of adjoining food premises which currently operate in excessively restricted conditions.
3. In addition to the declaration of the Stricklands Road No. 1. Clearance Area, the Council made official demolition orders in respect of Nos. 105 - 109, Bury Street (the adjoining empty No. 111 was already the subject of a closing order). During the year two of the tenants were rehoused:-

Mrs. Baker and daughter from 105, to a flat at 22, Kent Road,

Mrs. Webb from 109, to a bungalow at 13, Ford View Road,

where they are all settled in comfortable surroundings with more modern amenities. The remaining childless couple occupying No. 107 refused flat accommodation which was offered to them, insisting on one of the Council's very desirable new bungalows, for which they





are not appropriately eligible, and they continued to delay the demolition of these ugly cottages and the redevelopment of the site for two new houses.

4. The decayed dwellinghouse, No. 3/5/7, Union Street, an eyesore without and a headache within, became the subject of a demolition order, and the owner/occupant, Mrs. Orriss, and Mr. J. O'Brien were rehoused to a modern flat at 40, Kent Road.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Lambert and their two young sons living in an unfit house at No. 18, Crowe Street, were rehoused to a modern flat at 21, Curwen Road, where the boys will be brought up in a healthier environment. The house, which is included in the Council's schedule, was not made the subject of a closing order although the owner agreed to relet the house only to a tenant without children.
6. Negotiations were opened with a view to the application of demolition orders on Nos. 3 and 5, Poplar Hill.
7. It became opportune to deal with Nos. 1 - 4, Combs Ford Square during the year, when one of the occupant families became eligible for rehousing by virtue of special circumstances, and these houses were represented to the Council and accepted as a Clearance Area. However, the owner agreeing that the dwellings are unfit and beyond an economic life subsequently undertook to not relet them for human habitation, and when rehousing of the occupants is completed by the Council, it is proposed that the buildings and the site will become used for business purposes.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Carter and two children living at No. 2, and Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, a pensioner couple, living at No. 1, were destined to be rehoused in the New Year, 1965. Mr. Baker, the tenant of No. 3, died during the year. Suffering from asthma and chronic bronchitis he had found the cramped, damp, badly ventilated conditions of his cottage a burden in recent years.

8. Mr. Barrell, an elderly occupant of his own cottage in the unfit Spring Row terrace, died in rather tragic circumstances as a result of a combination of his own age and the deficiencies of his living accommodation.
9. Negotiations between the District Valuer and the owners of Nos. 1 - 21, Ham Row, upon which phase 1 of the Council's slum clearance housing development is almost wholly dependent, dragged its tortuous deliberations through the year, and no settlement had been reached by 31st December. The elderly people enduring the obsolete conditions of the houses in Ham Row and Spring Row are dependent upon the early acquisition and speedy redevelopment of this site if they are to enjoy modern living conditions in their lifetime. The young Sanders family living at No. 1, had their rehousing from the general waiting list deferred time and again because of the protracted negotiations and the refusal of the owners to undertake to not relet.
10. The owner of Nos. 2 - 12, Walnut Tree Walk was persuaded to undertake a certain amount of essential repair works to these scheduled properties - an expense which swallowed up a considerable amount of rent revenue for a number of years. The owner subsequently offered the houses for sale to the Council with a view to either improving them or demolishing them and redeveloping the site for 2 houses or bungalows, but the Council decided that neither alternative was worthwhile and declined the offer. The houses were subsequently offered on the





market after the tenants had refused to buy them, but no purchaser was found and the dwellings will remain for eventual attention on the Council's Clearance Programme.

The Council reviewed its financing of slum clearance when Councillor Iliffe presented a case for making the cost entirely one borne by the general rates, and the Council decided to relieve the housing revenue account by general rate contributions to the cost involved.

The Housing (Tenants and Welfare) Committee found some difficulty in selecting suitable occupants from slum clearance properties, since the numbers of scheduled dwellings which had been made the subject of orders had been kept to the minimum commensurate with the small numbers of allocations, and it was decided that it would be desirable if the Public Health Committee provided a larger pool of slum clearance occupants awaiting rehousing, to give the Housing (Tenants and Welfare) Committee greater scope and ease the difficulty of allocation work. In the circumstances an excess of properties was proposed for demolition procedure. At the same time as providing a surplus pool of occupants from the scheduled properties, it was also an advantage to deal with areas which the Council could usefully redevelop, and two such areas were selected - Church Walk and Union Street, which were referred to the Highways and Estates Committee who found their potential as car parking sites attractive. This provoked a general review of proposed car parking sites in the Town, but by the end of the year no decision had been made as to whether the Council should proceed with any formal action for the clearance and/or redevelopment of the Church Walk and Union Street sites.

Maintenance and Repair: The Rent Act, 1957, was not used at all during the year. The involved and protracted procedure provided by this piece of legislation deters the majority of landlords and tenants, who are more inclined to informally compromise in the matter of rents and repairs.

There is no other Act which requires general maintenance and repair of house properties. The Housing Act, 1957, only requires the repair of a house where the disrepair among other things renders that house unfit to live in. It is lamentable that the fabric of otherwise good houses is deteriorating, and there is a need for legislation to be provided to enable local authorities to ensure that the stock of houses in their districts is not allowed to decay to a point where the standard of fitness has to become involved, for by the time the fabric of a dwelling, as opposed to its amenities, becomes of such a low order that the house is unfit, then the house is likely to warrant closure or demolition, and we cannot afford houses to be wasted in this manner now or in the foreseeable future.

The Council was involved in ensuring the repair of 38 houses during the year. The action taken by the Council was informal through the Public Health Department, with the exception of one instance where it was necessary to serve a statutory notice in accordance with the provisions of Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. This involved one semi-detached dwellinghouse occupied by a young couple and their baby. The Council was unable to see its way clear to offering housing accommodation to this young family, and a closing order was therefore out of the question. Since the defects and deficiencies of the house were of a sufficiently urgent nature to justify action to cause their early remedy, the provisions of the nuisances section of the Public Health Act were invoked.





House Improvement Grant Schemes were again amended by the Housing Act, 1964, introduced in August. There are now four schemes of grant-aid and the new extended standard scheme, based on a seven-point standard and making a more generous contribution to the cost of extending a house to accommodate the bath amenity, is proving an attraction in this District where many of the terrace houses are small and have only two separate bedrooms.

Other important features of the new Act are the powers to designate areas as improvement areas and powers of compelling grant-aided improvement of dwellings. The exemption of owner-occupied dwellings from improvement areas renders the work difficult.

House improvement work will occupy an increasing amount of attention for, apart from hundreds of obsolete private houses, a fairly large proportion of the Council's own stocks is obsolete in varying degrees and deserving improvement and modernisation.

In recent times 20 houses in Violet Hill Road and 32 in Bury Road received improvements, and in 1964 Nos. 102 - 120, Poplar Hill were modernised to discretionary improvement standard. The task ahead is shown by a summary of defects affecting 535 of the older of the 965 Council dwellings:-

494 are without hot water systems, 525 are without washhandbasins, 173 have only an outside watercloset, 104 have waterclosets communicating directly with main kitchen, 16 old persons bungalows are equipped with baths which are too high to be used without involving distressing acrobatics, and 10 dwellings are unfit and warrant demolition.

The Council is tackling a larger number of these houses than hitherto and during the year formulated plans for modernising 122 - 140, Poplar Hill, and the Hillside and Poplar Hill bungalows and it is hoped to commence the works in 1965 to raise these dwellings to discretionary grant standard.

The Council is not alone in facing a large task of house improvement, for private landlords and householders own upwards of 500 houses in the Town which are lacking the basic standard amenities.

An inadequate trickle of applications continued to be received for grants toward private house improvements and the following is a summary of the work carried out.

Standard grants:

Applications approved in respect of owner-occupied dwellings	19
Applications approved in respect of tenanted dwellings	4
Applications refused because of probable road redevelopment	1
Owner-occupied dwellings improved	23
Tenanted dwellings improved	4
Amount paid in grants	£ 3,546.
Amenities provided:	
Baths	23
Washhandbasins	23
Inside water-closets	23
Hot water systems	25
Food stores	22
Average grant per house	£ 131.



Discretionary grants:

Applications approved in respect of owner-occupied dwellings	2
Applications approved in respect of tenanted dwellings	1
Applications refused because of probable redevelopment	2
Amount of grant aid approved ... ..	£ 736.
Owner-occupied dwellings improved	2
Tenanted dwellings improved	Nil
Amount of grant paid ... ..	£ 421.

To help boost the public interest in improvement grant schemes the Ministry of Housing and Local Government published some useful publicity in local press and television releases from time to time. The Council also exhibited an improvement grants publicity stand at the Trades Exhibition during Carnival week.

Caravan sites continued to operate as follows:

Sandpits, Victoria Road	(6)	Permanent residential, Licensed.
Pickerels Inn, Stowupland Street	(6)	Seasonal showmen's quarters, Exempt.
Pickerels Inn, Stowupland Street	(4)	Permanent residential, Unlicensed.
Dukes Head, Ipswich Street	(2)	Permanent residential, Unlicensed.
Combs Ford Square	(2)	Permanent residential, Unlicensed.
Caravan Sales, Bury Road	(1)	Permanent residential, Licensed.
'Ambleside', Finborough Road	(2)	Seasonal showmen's quarters, Exempt.

During the year the two caravans at the Old Piggeries site in Bridge Street were removed and the site is no longer used for this purpose. The site had no amenities and its closure was a good thing - largely precipitated by the Council's rehousing of caravan occupants.

Only the licensed caravan sales site in Bury Road has an acceptable standard of amenity, the other sites being in varying degrees of deficiency which, in traditional dwellings, would warrant inclusion and early attention in the slum clearance programme. There would appear to be some demand for a decent caravan site in the area, but no one has yet volunteered a site with the conditions befitting normal human beings.

Three of the sites are sufficiently deficient in their standards to merit closure, but action to do so in accordance with the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, is precluded until such time as the Council is in a position to afford the displaced families alternative accommodation.

FOOD.

The importance of food hygiene was amply highlighted in the Autumn when an outbreak of food poisoning occurred among staff and children of a local private school as a result of consuming meat pies contaminated with salmonella typhimurium organisms - an occasion which brought home to all those involved how distressing, inconvenient and expensive even a relatively mild infection like this could be.

Food hygiene should aim at providing a product which is safe to consume and aesthetically acceptable to the consumer. Occasionally an element of luck is involved in achieving this aim, but most of the time the far greater elements of risk can be discounted by knowledgeable care.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, continue to form the basis of the Council's food hygiene work. They require the production of clean food in hygienic premises with hygienic equipment by clean (but not necessarily wholly







healthy) staff. It is time the Regulations also required negative chest X-rays and bowel specimens as pre-requisites of employment in the food industry, with additional routine bowel checks from time to time.

This point was emphasised when investigations into the food poisoning outbreak revealed an infected carrier state in three key food staff in one business. This fact was only brought to light by the voluntary submission of specimens requested in a general screening survey of staff. One recalls that in the previous year when dysentery visited the Town, investigations were complicated by individuals exercising their right to refuse such specimens. The urgency of more serious and important outbreaks such as was experienced in Aberdeen in the summer demands legal remedy of this matter.

Most of the food premises in the Town were visited and inspected periodically during the year, and a large number of defects and deficiencies dealt with. One Victorian shopkeeper was prevailed upon to modernise a large part of his premises wherein staff and food alike had endured Dickensian conditions for long enough, and likewise the numerous minor defaults found during the year were similarly dealt with informally, no proceedings being taken under the Regulations. A list of the food premises in the Town is shown as follows:

Bakers	3	Fruiterers	9
General provision grocers	15	Sweet confectioners	11
Cake confectioners	3	Wet fish merchants	1
Fish friers	4	Chemists	3
Wine and spirit merchants	3	Public houses	18
Restaurants and cafes	10	Mobile ice cream vendors	5
Market stallholders	6	Sweet confectionery wholesaler	1
Mobile hamburger vendor	1	Meat products manufactory	1
General grocery wholesalers	2	Slaughterhouses	2
Butchers	6		

A number of complaints arose concerning defective foodstuffs as follows:-

1. Alien material in a piece of sponge cake sold by a local baker. The basic composition of the alien material rendered its identification very difficult, but it was neither unduly offensive nor harmful, and the Council decided that no action was required.
2. The urinous odour of packetted grated cheese sold by a local provision merchant resulted from the production of butyric acid, and the merchant readily decided to discontinue selling stale grated cheese scraps.
3. A mouldy chocolate sponge bar was purchased by a local housewife, but the shop from which she purchased it could not be identified with any certainty, and the Council did not take proceedings. Nevertheless the stocks of two shops most likely to have been the point of sale were overhauled; no faults were revealed but the national distributor was advised to enable him to keep a check on local distribution.
4. An old jar of meat paste in a lucky dip at the Carnival fair provoked criticism from the parent of the luckless child involved, and a warning was issued via the fairground organiser.
5. A mouldy chocolate sponge bar sold by a multiple concern, Key Markets Ltd., was the subject of a complaint. The age and condition were similar to a similar product sold by another retailer earlier in the year. It was felt that there was no evidence to indict the





manufacturing suppliers, and proceedings were taken against the retailer in accordance with Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and a fine of £10 was inflicted.

6. A dead ant in a jar of apricot jam was brought to the Department's notice, and the matter was referred to the manufacturer who promptly supplied a replacement, together with a Christmas pudding and an apology, to the absolute satisfaction of the consumer.
7. Two pork pies contaminated with salmonella typhimurium were sold to a local private school by the local meat manufacturer, W. A. Turner Ltd., with spectacular results. At the turn of the year the Council had decided to institute proceedings against the manufacturer in accordance with Sections 2 and 8 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the local Magistrates subsequently levied a fine of £50 together with £25 costs, in respect of the offence under Section 2, to which the firm pleaded guilty.

The Weights and Measures Inspectorate of the East Suffolk County Council also undertakes duties in connection with food, being particularly concerned with sampling for analysis for chemical constituents to detect harmful elements or fraudulent practices, and keep watch on the labelling of foodstuffs as well as general weights and measures work. Mundane though this work may be, it makes a very important contribution to the safeguarding of the public's food, and the Inspector for the area has very kindly furnished details of his Authority's work in this District, as follows:-

"Samples taken within the Urban District during 1964 (excluding milk samples taken by the Public Health Department of the County Council):-

	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Canned fruit and veg.	1	2
Beverages.	1	
Soft drinks.	2	
Meat products.	3	
Fish products.	1	
Bread etc.	2	
Drugs.	1	

The unsatisfactory canned fruit samples related to labelling infringements, one product being incorrectly described, and the label on the other specified the ingredients in an incorrect order."

Two wholesale grocery warehouses continue to operate - Messrs. J. Copeman & Sons in Violet Hill Road, and the distributing warehouse of the Stowmarket Co-operative Society Ltd. in Station Road. From time to time certain stocks at these premises are examined and disposed of as unfit for human consumption. During the year the following unsound food was surrendered or condemned at the warehouses and shops in the Town, and disposed of by the Council at its refuse tip in Bury Road:

Cooked meats and meat products	136 lbs.
Canned meats	170 lbs.
Fish	41 lbs.
Canned fruit and vegetables	818 lbs.
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	160 lbs.

Milk: The only responsibility the Council exercises as regards milk supplies is the registration of distributors. Milk licensing and supervision of local distribution, including the large C.W.S. Creamery in the Town, is largely undertaken by the County Council's County Health Inspector.

The Council registered Mr. Clarke of 51, Bury Road, Stowmarket as a distributor of milk during the year, bringing the number of distributors to 5.





The Tuberculin -Tested designation became defunct in 1964 as a result of the successful operation in eliminating bovine tuberculosis from the nation's dairy herds, and all milk is now either heat treated (pasteurised or sterilised) or untreated (raw). Despite the demise of bovine tuberculosis in recent times, the application of veterinary medicine including penecillin, in sometimes unqualified hands, is understood to cause concern in some circles, and the possibility of residual anti-biotics in milk supplies and other bovine infections, particularly brucella abortus, continues to make the heat treated product a much better proposition.

During the year the County Health Inspector's sampling programme resulted in the following work in the Urban District:-

<u>Statutory test</u> to prove the efficiency of heat treatment or general cleanliness:	59 (includes 3 school milk) samples, all of which proved satisfactory.
<u>Chemical analysis</u> to ascertain fat and solids content and freedom from adulteration:	9 (including school milk) all of which proved satisfactory.
<u>Biological examination</u> to discover tubercle or brucella:	34 samples, of which 16 proved positive for brucella abortus. These samples were taken at the Creamery and were milk supplies consigned from outside the District. Heat treatment is carried out to render the milk free from this infection which can cause undulant fever in man.
<u>Anti-biotic test:</u>	45 samples, all of which proved satisfactory. These samples too were of milk consigned to the local Creamery from outside the District.

Ice cream: Two new premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream during the year, and these consisted of the Constitutional Club Ltd., in Milton Road, Stowmarket, and the tobacconists formerly run by the Misses Lillistone and now occupied by Messrs. F. & J. Leeks as a combined confectioners and tobacconists in Station Road, Stowmarket. No registrations were cancelled during the year.

No manufacturers exist in the District, but two mobile vendors and one local restaurant-keeper use soft ice cream vending machines. Routine inspection of premises and particularly mobile vendors was carried out at frequent intervals during the season. 17 samples were taken and, on routine methylene blue tests, were classified according to their general bacterial condition as follows:-

<u>No. of Samples.</u>	<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade II</u>	<u>Grade III</u>	<u>Grade IV</u>
17.	12.	2.	1.	2.

The Grade IV products were (i) from a mobile vendor using his own manufactured products, and (ii) from a retailer with a soft ice cream vending machine.

The routine sampling of ice cream appears to progress with boring regularity, but on occasion proves its worth, as in the case of these two samples, for in the case of the former it was possible to spotlight substandard vehicle conditions, and in the case of the latter it brought to light that a plain detergent had been inadvertently brought into use for sterilising the vending machine. With the aid of the evidence of the samples both the vendors were able to effect immediate remedies.



Meat: During 1964 two slaughterhouses continued in operation. Messrs. W. H. Aldis & Son's small slaughterhouse at 49, Bury Street, continued to serve the requirements of the family butcher's business together with the needs of some other private butchers in the area, and the pig slaughterhouse of W. A. Turner Ltd. continued to feed some of the requirements of the associated meat products factory.

No Exchequer grants were received for meat inspection, but the Council levied a charge in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations at the full rate of 2s. 6d. per beast, 9d. per pig or calf, and 6d. per sheep, and this brought in £289. 11s. 4d.

The local veterinary surgeons, Messrs. Shorter and Mackintosh, kindly cover the meat inspection duties during my absence on leave.

Meat handling, transport and distribution still require constant surveillance and from time to time it was necessary to deal with deficiencies in the standard of meat hygiene in the District, although by and large the retailers set a good standard.

Unfit meat and by-products were disposed of to the Suffolk Fat and Bone Meal Co. Ltd., of Oulton Broad, to B. Dunning, Knackerman, of Great Finborough, and to Messrs. Swifts of Beccles. As in previous years, concern continued to be felt over the use of unwholesome bins delivered by the knackerman for the storage and collection of waste products from premises in this District. Representations to him failed to cause the situation to be improved to any extent and, particularly insofar as the waste products at the cooked meats factory were concerned, it became desirable to suggest alternative means of disposal, and the business concerned found an alternative outlet for its waste material in Messrs. Swifts of Beccles.

Statistical details of the meat inspection service during the year is summarised as follows, and it will be observed that the incidence of general disease is lower than hitherto and the numbers of animals organs which were rejected as unfit for consumption were invariably so regarded as a result of pleurisy, pneumonia, pericarditis and parasitic conditions of the lungs or liver in pigs. More avian tuberculosis in pigs was seen.

<u>POST MORTEM EXAMINATION.</u>	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed ... ..	377	-	2	489	6137
Number inspected ... ..	377	-	2	489	6137
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	21	-	1	8	1052
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	5.57	-	50	1.63	17.2
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	42
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with T.B. ... ..	-	-	-	-	0.68
<u>Cysticerci:</u> No cases of Cysticerci arose.					







A total of 2 tons 6 cwts. 16 lbs. of meat and offal were condemned as unfit for human consumption as a result of the post mortem examination of animals at the two slaughterhouses.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

The Council has two waterworks sources in its own District, consisting of bores at Poplar Hill and in Station Road. The Poplar Hill mains supplemented by some water from Gipping Rural District Council supply the Combs Ford area. Station Road water on the other hand is supplied to the remainder of the Urban District, either direct or via the water tower reservoir; a small section of the Chilton Hall estate is served by water brought in from Gipping mains.

The bacteriological standard of all mains water is excellent as evidenced by the 28 samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service during the year which proved of highly satisfactory bacteriological quality.

Whilst the bacteriological quality of the water supply is maintained at a constantly high level, the physical quality unfortunately varies considerably - from hard and otherwise satisfactory, to hard and otherwise physically abominable. The physical quality of the water brought in from the Gipping mains is vastly superior to the domestic water supply.

Complaints concerning the water supply in the District during the year arose from poor pressure and poor physical quality. In some cases the poor pressure has been relieved by owners of properties replacing defective household service pipes which have corroded over the years. In many terraces of the older houses the introduction of modern amenities in the form of bathrooms, additional waterclosets and hot water systems etcetera has placed excessive demands upon original common services which have become inadequate, and in many cases the installation of a new and separate water service to a dwellinghouse independent of the original common service is a necessary part of grant aided improvement works.

The Engineer and Surveyor officially indicts the water undertaking as unsatisfactory, being completely obsolete and outdated.

The artificial fluoridation of the local water supply was considered by the Council during the year, having been furnished with a deal of literature on the subject. Despite the assurances of the Government, the Ministry of Health and the organised medical bodies, the Council is cautious since it is not at all sure that reliance can be placed upon opinions which have been produced by extrapolation.

The total consumption of water for the Urban District during 1964 amounted to 101,904,000 gallons. This excludes water obtained for industrial purposes from private bores such as those in use at the Violet Hill Laundry.

### SANITATION.

The Council has a modern sewage works which deals with a very complex chemical sewage liquor from the Urban District very successfully, and all the discharges entering the River Gipping from the Works after treatment have consistently been well within the limits satisfying the Rivers Board. A qualified chemist is engaged full time to handle the successful treatment of the sewage liquor. During the year the Council agreed to accept the drainage from a further 60 dwellings situated in the Gipping Rural District at Stowupland village which are proposed for erection.



The sewage problem of Messrs. Munton & Fison Ltd., whose discharges to the River Gipping have occasioned criticism, was taken a step nearer remedy when the Council's consultants reported their consideration of the task of satisfactorily treating the drainage effluents from this maltings factory, and this enabled negotiations to be reopened with the firm.

The sludge pressing project did not materialise again in 1964, but the Council was able to operate its works without undue embarrassment in the matter of sludge disposal during an exceptionally dry year. Representations were nevertheless made to the Council's consultants to speed the sludge pressing unit.

The Suffolk and Norfolk Rivers Board finally decided after careful consideration that it is impossible to promote a flow of water through the old course of the Gipping River, and the drainage discharges from four bungalows in Newton Road will require to be reaccommodated in a sewer extension. The Council agreed to consider a scheme to sewer these four bungalows when time permits. In the meantime the discharges continue to stagnate in the bed of this old watercourse in a very unwholesome manner.

During the year the sanitary accommodation at the Hillside Recreation Ground was reviewed. If the Ground were used only by local residents of the area it would probably be as well to remove such accommodation altogether. In view, however, of the use to which it is put, changing accommodation and sanitary conveniences are desirable. Two open urine buckets in an open corrugated iron compound are not satisfactory. As a temporary measure the accommodation was supplemented by a chemical closet, but the convenience is to say the least quite primitive, and the Council decided to prepare plans for proper accommodation at an early date.

The public conveniences, provided in conjunction with the Brewers, at the Queens Head Hotel, Station Road, came into full use at the beginning of the year. Modern and well-equipped, their good appointment and active use deters vandalism despite the fact that they are officially unattended. In 1964 the Council decided to dispense with the humble penny as the pre-requisite to the use of conveniences, and all are now free. All public conveniences are kept open 24 hours a day.

In the year new sanitary accommodation was provided at the Council Offices and provides a good example to other employers affected by the Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Eight complaints of defective drainage and sanitary accommodation were dealt with during the year.

#### REFUSE.

Some years ago the Engineer and Surveyor inherited a refuse collection service based on the insanitary skip system using side-loading vehicles. This system provides the local population with a weekly collection for household refuse, together with a weekly trade refuse service for which nominal charges are made.

All refuse, including surrendered and condemned foodstuffs, is disposed of in a controlled tip occupied by the Council in Bury Road. At the same time the Council undertakes the salvage of paper waste and this resulted in a net revenue in 1964 of £1,847. 15s. 5d.







A voluntary municipal bin service is operated and at the end of the year there were 458 refuse bins on issue. An annual charge of 5s. 0d. per bin is made with the rate demand and provides a satisfactory proposition to both householders and the Council.

The provision of litter bins in the Town area was again delayed by the local shopping centre face-lift which was carried out under the advice of a private architect, to whom the litter bin designs were referred for appropriate choice. Complaint was received on two occasions concerning the situation as regards litter in the Town, particularly in the main shopping area and in the Parish Churchyard. It is just as easy to carry an empty cigarette package home in one's pocket as to carry a full one, and basically there is no reason why anyone should regard the littering of our District as excusable merely because the provision of litter bins continues to be delayed. However, there is inevitably an element at all social levels which will nevertheless regard this littering as justified in the absence of such facilities, and little improvement can be expected until the bins are made available.

Complaint was received during the year in respect of two Council house properties where garden areas were being unduly neglected. In one case the occupant was prevailed upon to remove his business from the premises to facilitate its general tidying and cultivation, and in the other the tenant was agreeable to curbing his junk business for the benefit of his neighbours and the general aspect.

As a sign of the times in this affluent society perhaps, the Council faced its first abandoned motor vehicle problem when three vehicles were left to rot on the Council car park. The vehicles were removed at the expense of the current owners. It would appear that the Litter Act, 1958, could well be supplemented by an amendment to deal with this problem by providing for a recurring daily penalty for the person shown by an abandoned vehicle's record to be the last owner.

#### ANIMALS.

Two pet shops were licensed by the Council:-

- (a) Cramphorn Ltd., 4, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket.
- (b) A. W. Alderton, t/a 'Marina', 39, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket.

In both cases the animals and birds enjoyed the benefit of staff who were attentive and considerate, and periodic visits to the shops revealed their welfare to be adequately provided for. During the year the pet shop of Mr. A. W. Alderton closed.

In accordance with the Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963, the Minton Kennels of Mrs. R. de Vere-Packford, Bury Road, Stowmarket, were registered.

Dogs in food shops provoked a number of requests from local retailers for a suitable notice to display in their entrances, drawing attention to the undesirable practice of allowing such animals in their premises. Suitable notices for free issue were printed by the Council.

Whilst on the matter of dogs, it is surprising the inconveniences the general population continues to endure from so-called "man's best friend". Apart from a general risk to life and limb particularly of anyone outside the dog's own household, the occurrence of the waste deposits of these animals in public places and on footpaths is still too frequently apparent.



RECREATION.

The Council provides two recreation grounds, a small one principally used for football and cricket in Hillside, and the principal Recreation Ground in Finborough Road, which is well-used, much appreciated and forms a very desirable green area close to the centre of the Town.

There is also a public swimming pool in Ipswich Road, and this open-air pool, which in 1964 was open from 14th May to 13th September, is well patronised by the local population. The pool, constructed of attractively decorated concrete, measures 100 ft. in length with the depth varying from 3 ft. to 9 ft. 6 ins. The immediate surrounds are well paved and grass areas bounded by trees also provide an ideal suntrap for sun bathing. A paddling pool is installed for the safe use of the toddlers and this operates on the same circuit as the main pool water which among other things is chlorinated and filtered during continuous circulation. 5 routine samples of the pool's water were submitted for bacteriological examination at times of peak bathing load during the season, and showed the bacterial quality to be as high as the excellent physical condition in which the Engineer's Department maintains it.

As the bungalow development off Combs Lane by B. G. Quinton Ltd. neared completion, the firm generously offered a parcel of land in Campion Crescent, together with a sum of £250 for the purchase of recreational amenities for the use and enjoyment of the community the firm had now helped to create. The Council gladly accepted this generous offer and the formation of this recreational facility, together with its future maintenance.

RODENT CONTROL.

No serious infestations of rats and mice occurred in the year, but the essential routine work of the part-time Rodent Operative continued and an analysis of the work is summarised below.

Total number of properties inspected as a result	
of complaint.	104.
Number of these properties infested with rats.	85.
Number of these properties infested with mice.	17.
Total number of properties inspected by routine	
survey.	613.
Number of these properties infested by rats.	101.
Number of these properties infested by mice.	4.
Number of infested properties treated by Local	
Authority.	198.
Total number of treatments carried out to effect	
rodent control.	253.

No formal notices were issued and no proceedings were instituted during the year. It became obvious that the Council could no longer continue to afford local business concerns a rodent control service based on a general charge of 6s. Od. per hour, and during the year the Council raised the standard charge to 9s. Od. per hour, inclusive of labour and materials, which is still considerably below commercial rates. Industrialists are quick to take advantage of the favourable rates offered, and the Council in turn saves time and money as a result of a ready response to rodent infestations. Domestic ratepayers enjoy a free service.







The Operative deals with disinfection where some insect pests are concerned, but during the year his services in this direction were applied only to the elimination of a few wasps' nests in addition to his normal rodent control work.

In 1964 the rodent control workshop used for the storage and preparation of poison materials and equipment was the subject of some long-overdue improvements including the installation of a water supply and fixed washing facilities.

#### ATMOSPHERE.

Residential and industrial and agricultural interests are not altogether compatible, and from time to time friction arose as a result of the differing elements. This problem can be expected to increase as expanding urban development encroaches within itself and outwards into the agricultural areas. Disputes between industrial concerns and residential communities is an old problem, but another which has come to the fore in recent times arises from the expansion of residential development into the agricultural areas where factory-farming is involved. Certain exemptions from planning control of agricultural buildings are provided by the Planning General Development Order. In view of the fact that some agricultural activities, particularly factory-farming, are no more easily integrated into general urban development than other industrial, commercial and domestic development, the need for the removal of such exemption from many agricultural activities is opportune. The Council was instrumental in securing that this step was taken in the Urban District by the County Planning Authority in respect of agricultural activities in the form of intensive pig-keeping premises, to prevent enlargement of activities to the inevitable detriment of the local population with whom they rub shoulders.

In the year the Council had to deal with a number of examples of nuisances arising from both industrial and agricultural activities.

Stramit Boards Ltd., whose waste straw burning had been a source of annoyance and nuisance to a number of householders and industrialists for years, finally stopped this practice and cleared their site of residue ash following the issue of a statutory notice in accordance with Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Similarly, the Suffolk Iron Foundry (1920) Ltd. became the subject of a statutory notice to stop the incineration of rubbish on its Gipping Works site, which had also been the source of considerable annoyance to the residents in that area for a number of years.

Messrs. Sutton & Phillips Ltd., Manufacturing Chemists, found the remedy of their yeast-like odour emissions continued to elude them.

Emissions from the cupolas of the Suffolk Iron Foundry (1920) Ltd., were the subject of complaint during the year, principally from employees engaged in adjacent industrial undertakings. One of the cupolas is equipped with a wet grit arrester and the other with a dry arrester, and the height of the flues appears to favour the down-draught of flue emissions. Investigations into the peculiar and difficult problems associated with foundry cupolas are currently being carried out at National level, and it is hoped that the Association involved in the investigations will afford sufficient advice to the local industrialist to enable him to effect worthwhile improvements in 1965.

Piggeries in Combs Lane, where intensive pig production renders this agricultural activity of the order of factory-farming, gave rise to numerous complaints for yet another year from residents in that area,





particularly in the spring and summer when the smell exhausted from the extractor ventilation system of the piggeries was considered by the complainants to render their homes at times untenable. A petition was organised protesting to the Council about the nuisance, particularly from smell, and the owner was prevailed upon to discontinue his proposals to expand his undertaking, and at the same time the Council asked the County Council to make the necessary representations for the removal of the exemption granted by the General Development Order. The Council decided that at the time of its consideration of the complaints and investigations the degree of smell did not constitute a statutory nuisance in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke: In August the Housing Act 1964 was issued, and provides that any house constructed after its issue will not be eligible for a grant for the conversion of its solid fuel heating appliances, should it ever become involved in a smoke control zone. No smoke control zones are in operation in the District, and at the moment none are proposed, but all prospective house-builders are circularised by letter drawing their attention to the desirability of providing heating appliances in their homes which are capable of burning smokeless fuel. The Council has not adopted the byelaw requiring the installation of such appliances in all new houses, and with the new Building Regulations within sight, the Minister is reluctant to allow these to be now adopted. It is an encouraging trend to learn from one of the local builders involved in local estate development that nearly 50% of his prospective house and bungalow purchasers are installing smokeless fuel central heating systems.

#### WORKPLACES.

Factories: Routine inspection of factory premises revealed a number of deficiencies in connection with sanitary accommodation. Most of the factories in the District are powered, and the provisions of the Factories Act, 1961, are administered by H.M. Factories Inspector, based at Ipswich, except for the certification of water supplies and the standard of the sanitary accommodation. The Council's work in this direction is summarised as follows.

Powered factories	58.
Unpowered factories	2.
Other premises (building sites etc.)	6.
Number of inspections	17.
Sanitary defects found	7.
Sanitary defects remedied	4.

Two premises are registered in accordance with the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951:-

- (i) Messrs. Cole & Sons (Furnishers) Ltd., 57, Ipswich Street.
- (ii) Messrs. J. Collins & Sons Ltd., Jaycol Works, Pinborough Road.

Shops and Offices: The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, came into operation during the year with a great deal of national and local publicity. The first requirement of the Act demanded the notification by the 31st July of certain details including the number of employees engaged by employers in their businesses. The majority of employers responded well, but a fair proportion of the local employers, I am sad to say, defaulted and additional means were necessary to provoke the necessary action, although the Council did not find it necessary to take proceedings. Some of the provisions of the Act came into force by stages in 1964, including certain provisions relating to general over-





crowding, maintenance and adequate temperature, ventilation, lighting and similar general welfare provisions, whereas some of the welfare provisions of the Act which may entail employers in greater capital expenditure and constructional improvements have been deferred for introduction later in 1965 and 1966.

The protracted introduction of the Act over a period of two years has not helped in either the interpretation of the Act or in the application of its provisions by the Local Authority. The Ministry of Labour has contributed a considerable amount of guiding literature to assist Councils in the interpretation of this new legislation. If only legislators could provide legal instruments which were largely easily interpreted and self explanatory ...

The following statistics summarise the position at the end of 1964.

TABLE A  REGISTRA- TIONS AND GENERAL INSPEC- TIONS	(1) Class of premises	(2) No. of prems. registered during the year.	(3) Total no. of regist- ered prems. at end of year.	(4) No. of regis- tered prems. receiving a general inspection during the year.
	Offices	29	29	4
	Retail shops	68	67	19
	Wholesale shops, warehouses	6	6	2
	Catering establishments open to the public, canteens.	5	5	5
	Fuel storage depots.	2	2	-
	TOTALS	110	109	30

TABLE B - NO. OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS TO  
REGISTERED PREMISES

42.

TABLE C  ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGIST- ERED PREMISES BY WORK- PLACE	Class of workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
	Offices	266
	Retail shops	371
	Wholesale departments, warehouses	48
	Catering establishments open to the public	27
	Canteens	1
	Fuel storage depots	14
	Total:	727
	Total Males:	362
	Total Females:	365



GENERAL.

The Council continued to contribute to the Central Council for Health Education which offers a wide range of publicity material and educational aids.

During the year it was learned that plastic toys with a rather high lead content were considered by a Medical Officer of Health to be possibly responsible for the occurrence of lead poisoning in a child admitted to a hospital in his area. No Ministry information was available to local authorities who received enquiries in this matter. In the circumstances some local authorities in this area felt justified in exploring the situation themselves, and samples, including some from the Stowmarket Urban District, were submitted to the Public Analyst. On the face of it the results were alarming, and apparently excessively high amounts of lead were included in some of the items in kits of plastic toys. With little available guidance at the time from higher authority the chance was taken in interpreting this high lead content as possibly hazardous, and publicity was given to the findings. The Home Office subsequently reported after extensive investigation by the Government Chemist that the lead in plastic ware is not readily assimilated by children sucking the articles, and there was no justification for deterring or prohibiting the sale of these items. The Home Office nevertheless felt justified in recommending maximum lead contents in articles, including childrens' toys made of plastic, in very much lower concentration than was found by local sampling and analysis.

Highways matters seldom feature in public health reports, but where they interfere with or affect the health scene, it is right and proper that they should receive mention. The proposed Stowmarket Relief Road, this phantom highway which has been a thorn in the side of the local community for a considerable number of years, continued to blot the local landscape by its absence and the absence of any material activity to provide it. Over the years it has thwarted the development of domestic, commercial and public undertakings, it has sterilised land and it has provided a good number of people in its proposed line with a great deal of insecurity. The Council found it necessary to specifically refuse some house improvement grants and scores of other houses are prevented from enjoying even the basic amenities provided by the Standard Grant Scheme because of their proximity to the new road, slum clearance proposals stand in abeyance in affected areas, two proposed caravan site developers have been dissuaded, a food factory which is a major employer in the Town operates under difficult conditions because of the restrictions created by the phantom road, and its proximity to the factory site. These are but a few examples of the very real problems created by the continued deferment of this project, to say nothing of the congestion from the constant flow of heavy vehicular traffic. We must look to a further period of indecision and insecurity for at least another five years, for it has been decided that the project cannot be included in any programme before 1970 at the earliest.

One episode in the life of the Department in 1964 carried it into the realms of welfare work, when it dealt with the case of the 'Girl in the Green Van'. Far from being a 'Perry Mason' thriller, it merely consisted of the rather arduous task of persuading a young pregnant woman to enter into society again from the depths of a small and rather filthy van kept in a lock-up garage in the Town, and in which her continuing presence there would undoubtedly have hazarded the well-being of the child and herself. The young lady's paramour who owned the van and rented the garage was not entirely inclined nor capable of finding a solution to the







girl's problem. Initial attempts failed to dislodge the girl from her attachment to her degrading environment and the father of the child. It was difficult to know quite what course of action could be taken that would result in the mother and child having some chance of survival, but two weeks' bribery with fish-and-chip suppers, flasks of hot coffee and vitamin pills, together with the kind offer of a temporary home by one of the local population's widows finally worked. The happy sequel to the story is that the child survived and is doing very well.

Towards the end of the year the Council lost the valuable services of Councillor G. S. Scotland by his untimely death. His services with the Council were particularly marked by his efforts in connection with the individual and his health and environment. In particular he was interested in housing problems, recognising them as among the basic factors relating to individual and community health, and was an active Deputy Chairman of the Housing (Tenants and Welfare) Committee and a member of the Public Health Committee.

For three months the work of the Department was disrupted by a food poisoning outbreak. Apart from routine inspection work however, the Council's public health services made available to the public were maintained, despite the fact that, for many weeks, we were all almost fully engaged on the outbreak and its hundred and one time-consuming jobs.

Miss Thompson, who completed her first full year in the Department, completely justified the confidence in her appointment and has become a valued asset, capably handling all enquiries and the clerical work.

I wish to record my appreciation of the encouragement and support afforded me by the Members of the Council and my colleagues, the Officers of the Council, for their ever-ready help whenever I frequently needed it in achieving my contribution to the environmental health work of the Council referred to in this Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,  
Yours respectfully,

L. W. BROWN

Public Health Inspector.

